

Eng. Hist. Topog. vol 17.
RULES AND ORDERS

TO BE OBSERVED AND KEPT BY AN
AMICABLE SOCIETY
OF
MEMBERS,

IN OR NEAR THE
DOCK-YARD OF SHEERNESS,
IN THE ISLE OF SHEPPY,
IN THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

Agreed and concluded upon the 1st Day of September, 1770.

In the Tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign
Lord GEORGE the Third, &c.



ROCHESTER:

PRINTED BY WEBSTER GILLMAN,

1787.

RIGHTS AND ORDERS

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DOCTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILL.

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RULES, &c.

ARTICLE I.

IT is mutually agreed, that the Time of
number of members of this Soci- meeting and
ETY shall not exceed Sixty-one, and number of
to pay ten shillings and nine-pence members.
entrance, and to meet at the Club-
room appointed at *Sheernefs* afore-
said, every fourth *Saturday* from
the first of *September*, between six
and seven o'clock in the Winter,
and seven and eight in the Summer;
and every member at such meet-
ing shall pay one shilling and three-
pence, the shilling to be put in the
box, and the three-pence to be spent
in the Club-room, until there is
one hundred and ten pounds in the
box, and then to pay no more than
nine-pence, that is, six-pence to the
box, and the three-pence as afore-
said,

said, as long as it continues so much or less as above: No member to spend the three-pence out of the Club-room, under the forfeit of six-pence. And if any member do not come, but send their money, their said three-pence shall be spent every meeting night; the books to be kept open but three hours.

Allowance to
sick mem-
bers.

II. THAT if any member of this Society be sick or lame, so as to be incapable of following his employ, he shall, by acquainting one of the stewards, within three days of the same, be allowed seven shillings *per* week, and all working days over a week or weeks, one shilling for each day during their sickness; and withal, to prevent any mistake, every sick member shall send proper notice to the stewards, within three days, all over shall be void, (that is to say, by one of his family, or the person that looks after him in his illness, or by a letter, to signify his illness) and that every steward or stewards shall visit the sick twice a week within a mile, if above a mile the clerk, or any of the stewards, as they shall agree, shall visit the sick once a week upon a working day, and upon complaint of

Stewards to
visit the sick.



of the sick, that the stewards, &c. has not visited as aforesaid, and pay them their money in two days after his week, shall be fined five shillings; but if the person or persons thus complaining, should recover, so as to follow his employ before the week is expired, they shall not have any thing for so short an illness, and no member to lodge any complaint against the stewards in not doing their duty, &c. (that they cannot justify the next Club meeting) under the penalty of five shillings for the same; and no one member shall belong, or enter into any other Benefit Club of this kind; and if he or they do, as soon as it is found out, shall be turned out of this Society the next meeting night, without any money returned that they have paid, &c.

III. THAT when any of the said Members members shall become sick, or lame, for the space of two months, and it is thought by a majority that he cannot be relieved here, he is desired by a majority aforesaid, that he will go to the hospital, where he will be allowed the same allowance as specified in the second article, the same as if here upon the spot, without

No member
to belong to
any other
Society.

sick for two
months to go
to the hos-
pital.

out it should appear, or come to be known by the Society, to be the foul disease, &c. and if any of the said Society should ask relief in that case, shall be turned out as soon as found out, and if the said sick member or members should refuse to go agreeable, as aforesaid, by a majority, he shall be struck off the sick list, for that said fit of sickness; and that no member that is sick or lame shall go any where from home without first acquainting the Society of it, if he do, he must expect no relief from the Society for the same.

Allowance
for funerals.

IV. THAT when any member dies, there shall be three guineas allowed for the funeral charges, if buried in this island by the Society as exprest. A coffin one pound four shillings, a shroud, &c. nine shillings, hearse five shillings, sermon, &c. thirteen shillings, clerk and bell three shillings, ground fees nine shillings, to be paid by the clerk and stewards &c. and if buried at a further distance, that the members do not go to the burying, the heir to be allowed fifty shillings, the reason having no sermon to attend the corpse too; to be paid in the same manner, and the stewards shall order

order the clerk to wait on the heir or heirs of the deceased, to signify the several members desire to pay their last respects to the deceased by following him to the ground, if rejected by the heir or heirs, he, she, or they shall not be intitled to either the burial charges, nor the five pounds as mentioned in this article, without he dies of the small pox, or any contagious distemper, as may be judged by the Society; but if he dies of the small pox, no more to go than a sufficient number that may carry and bear the pall, without they chuse it belonging to the Society, and agreeable to the heir or heirs; the stewards shall order the clerk to summons the several members to attend, and whoever neglects to come, if buried in this island, aforesaid, or give such satisfaction to be excused by the majority next Club meeting, shall pay two shillings and six-pence; but if buried at any greater distance, the heir or heirs to receive fifty shillings for their burial charges, the members not being obliged to attend any corpse any further distance, only if desired by the heir or heirs to follow

Members to
be summon-
ed to attend
funerals.

In case of
death the al-
lowance to
surviving
friends, &c.

low him to the water side. And if any member leave a widow, and there is fifty pounds in the box, the said widow the next monthly meeting shall receive five pounds, and if but forty pounds, receive but four pounds, and if but thirty pounds, receive but three pounds, and if but fifteen pounds, to receive three pounds, and under, nothing; but a particular account kept of such widows, and to be paid them when the said sums should amount as aforesaid (and whoever dies and leaves no wife, their child or children shall have the money shared among them in the same manner, and if no child, their friend or friends they nominate, shall be intitled to the benefit in the same manner; but no one to receive any benefit if it is found he died of the foul disease; and further it is desired that but one member shall speak at a time concerning the Society's affairs, and at the time of speaking to stand up, and no other member to interrupt him, nor make any derision of the said member, under the penalty of one shilling forfeit.

One mem-
ber to speak
at a time.

On cursing,
swearing, &
fighting.

V. THAT if any member shall curse or swear, during the time of meeting

meeting, shall pay two-pence ; but if he fights or strikes during the same time, he shall forfeit one shilling, or be excluded.

VI. THAT if any member does ^{Members} not send his money, or any excuse, ^{who neglect} within two months, that is to say, ^{to pay.} neglects two monthly meetings, without it appears by a majority at the next meeting, it was not consistent to come, or send his money, or any excuse, as above; if he or they should fall sick or lame after the two months, and have not complied as above, he or they shall be deemed not members any longer, the reason nothing appears, they would not have continued members only their sickness; but he or they, if they come themselves, may be re-admitted by a majority, if in health, not else, paying over and above what has been paid by the other members in their absence, the sum of two shillings and sixpence; No one to bring another's money after his second night, and if any one miss three nights, and another should be entered in his room, he must wait until there is a vacancy to be entered by a majority again.

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VII.

Persons not
to be admit-
ted.

VII. THAT none shall be admitted members of this Society that are afflicted with any visible distemper, nor above thirty six years of age, to be testified by certificate, or otherwise, agreeable to a majority; such member or members shall have equal right to the original member or members, and no member shall receive any benefit until they have been members one whole year; nor any person shall be admitted that has been offered, and been rejected.

Keys of the
box.

VIII. THAT there be five different locks to the box, so contrived that the said box cannot be opened without all the keys, which keys shall be kept by the four stewards, the inside key by the clerk.

No wagers,
gaming, or
disputes.

IX. That during the time of meeting there shall be no wagers, gaming, or disputes raised or held by any member, to the annoyance or interruption of the other members, whoever shall offend in this point, shall each and every one so offending pay one shilling; and no member to divulge any forfeits out of the Club-room, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit one shilling.

X. THAT

X. THAT there shall be no disrespectful words spoken against his Majesty King George, and the Royal Family, whoever offends in this point shall be expelled the Society. No member to speak disrespectfully of the King.

XI. THAT no member shall receive any benefit, or allowance to support him in his or their illness, or lameness, that he or they shall have brought upon themselves, as by any wicked course of life, as fighting, wrestling, or drinking, or other course of life that may be adjudged so by a majority at the next monthly meeting, after complaint may be made by any member of this Society for relief. No allowance to those members.

XII. THAT the stewards &c. for the time being, shall receive and pay all the money, and take receipts for the same, and at the end of twelve months to give a plain and just account to the succeeding stewards; and if any stewards, or any other person or persons being intrusted with any sums of money whatsoever belonging to, and for the use of the Society, shall, or do at any time or times hereafter misapply, or fraudulently detain or convert the same, contrary to the true purport or meaning of the several Articles Stewards to receive and pay the Society's money. Of defrauding the Society.

B 2 herein

herein mentioned, or any of them make any false, or unjust account to the true purport or meaning of the several Articles herein mentioned, or any of them make any false, or unjust account to the prejudice of the said Society, that then such stewards, person or persons being members of the Society, shall upon the discovery of the said fraud forthwith be discharged, and for ever be expelled the Society, and shall be liable to make satisfaction for what money he or they, or either of them have defrauded the Society of.

Sick mem-
bers may be
examined by
a Surgeon.

XIII. THAT if any member of this Society should complain to be sick or lame, it shall be in the power of the majority, and the stewards, if they think it necessary to employ a surgeon or apothecary to enquire into the merit of the complaint, and whatever member or members make such complaint, and it should appear, by the opinion either as aforesaid, he, or they should not be sick or lame, he or they so complaining shall be for ever expelled the Society. And if any member or members should appear by a majority to be worn out by long sickness, or old age, so as to be incapable

Aged mem-
bers to have
an allowance

capable to get his or their living, by his or their trade, or calling, and it should likewise be the opinion of the majority, that such member or members have not a competency to support him or themselves without their assistance in their trade or calling, each such member or members, in an opinion of a majority, may be allowed a weekly sum, not exceeding six shillings.

XIV. THAT if any member of Sick members when in this Society should make complaint for relief to the stewards by being the country, sick or lame, more than one mile to be visited from *Sheerness*, the stewards shall by the clerk. order the clerk to go and enquire into the truth of the complaint, and if the clerk is not well, to order who they shall think proper, and to be allowed three-pence per mile, if more than five miles, and less than ten miles, to be allowed a horse separate, and to be paid out of the public stock; or if any member Distant members when sick to have a testimonial, should go to sea, or remove his dwelling to any part of *South Britain*, he shall still be intitled to all the benefits of this Society, provided he appoints one to pay his money as it becomes due, and when any such member, if not at sea, becomes sick

Testimonials
to be signed
by the minis-
ter, &c.

sick or lame, he shall signify his illness by a testimonial, signed by the minister and church wardens of the parish where he is: And, to prevent giving the minister and church wardens aforesaid, too much trouble, it is mutually agreed there shall be but one testimonial signed for one fit of sickness, and that not till the person is so recovered that he is able to follow his employ. This favour shall not be desired of any minister or church wardens until they have seen and heard these articles, that they may the better judge what is the person's due; in case of lameness, sickness, or death, which he or them shall have their weekly allowance sent him or them, as he or they shall direct, or as the clerk and stewards shall think most convenient; no testimonial shall be of force but what is wrote in this manner following.

Form of the
testimonial.

These are to certify, the FRIENDLY SOCIETY, belonging to SHEERNESS, in the county of KENT, that we the minister and church wardens of the parish of _____ in the town of _____ in the county of _____ have deliberately read these

these articles, of the said Society, and we do further testify that A. B. residing in the parish of in the town and county aforesaid, hath by sickness been hindered from following his employ for the space of weeks last past, from the date hereof, in witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, this day of

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XV. THERE shall be no money Lending money out of the stock but at lawful interest, and to be called in every the stock, two years, and no more than twenty pounds in one person's hands, without buying any person's pay belonging to the Society, such as the major part of the Society should approve of, and the power made to one of the stewards, and lodged in the Club-box, to be done by the direction of the stewards and clerk; and whatever member or members Of breaking the articles. should be for breaking any article or articles without a majority shall be excluded, or it should be his or their pleasure to leave the club, it is mutually agreed by the whole Society, that any member or members that should be turned out, or leave the Club, as above, shall have no right or title to all, or any part of any sum or

or sums of money, by him or them paid towards the support of the Club, but to the contrary, all such sum or sums of money by them paid as before, shall remain in the said Club-box for the benefit of the whole Society.

Concerning
the Pall, &c.

XVI. THAT there shall be a pall, seven hatbands, and six pair of gloves provided; for which said pall, each and every member at his death shall be intitled to the use of as soon as he or they shall become members, and when he or they are so, and his or their wife or wives should die, she or they shall likewise be intitled to the use of the said pall, and at the death of any member or members as above, the clerk and stewards as above, and one more shall support the pall, each to wear one of the hatbands and a pair of gloves; and whatever heir or heirs shall refuse the aforesaid stewards and clerk, &c. to support the pall, shall not be intitled to the benefits of this Society aforesaid.

Stewards to
give notice
of funerals.

XVII. THAT if the stewards do not take care that every member have notice given him at least twenty four hours before the funeral of any member of this Society, each steward shall forfeit one shilling.

XVIII.

XVIII. THAT if any member be upon the box, or hath received any benefit from the box, and any member of this Society reflect upon him, either in the Club-room or elsewhere, he or they being found guilty of the same, shall forfeit eighteen-pence.

No reflection
for having
received the
benefit.

XIX. THAT if any member or members come into the Club-room drunk to pay one shilling; and to be found to be in liquour at the decease of any member before the ceremony or service is over, as may be judged by the majority the next Club-meeting, shall pay two shillings and six-pence.

To come
sober to the
club room.

XX. THAT if either of the stewards, or clerk, being well and in *Sheerness*, be absent any Club-night or private meeting one hour after the appointed time of meeting they shall forfeit two-pence, and for not coming or leaving his key one shilling, all forfeits to go into the Club chest.

Stewards to
forfeit when
absent.

XXI. THAT in case the stock should be reduced to less than eighty pounds, that each member shall pay the next monthly meeting one shilling at the decease of

When the
stock is redu-
ced to eighty
pounds.

any member, and if in case it be reduced under pounds, then each member pay one penny per man per week, over and above his afore-said charges mentioned in the first article.

Sick mem-
bers to pay to
the box.

XXII. THAT no member shall be exempted in his illness from paying to the box, but to the contrary he shall pay in the same manner as the rest of the members do.

Of keeping
silence.

XXIII. THAT if any member refuse to be silent when required by either of the stewards, he or they for such an offence shall forfeit two-pence.

Chusing the
stewards, &c.

XXIV. THAT at the Meeting yearly on the twenty-second of *September*, the stewards and clerk shall be nominated, and the old stewards and clerk shall account to them the last meeting in *January*, but that accompt shall not be closed until the last meeting in *February*, from which time the new stewards and clerk shall begin to act, and not before; and at the latter meeting in *August*, likewise a majority of members then present shall appoint what shall be provided for supper the

the said twenty-second of *September*, and every member shall meet between five and six of the clock in the Club-room, and each member to be allowed two shillings and six-pence out of the box to defray the expence; no member or members shall be excused on any pretence, without he is upon the box, or lives above ten miles from *Sheerness* under the forfeit of two shillings and six-pence for the use of the Society; the whole care and management of this article to be in the stewards and clerk, and all expences to be defrayed and paid by them.

XXV. THAT the old stewards In case a upon the feast day put up four steward dies. members, and the Society four more, and four of the said to be chose by a majority the last Meeting night in *December*, and they that refuse to stand after chose, shall pay ten shillings the next meeting night, and that if any steward die or fined, the next of the other four that has most votes to stand as aforesaid, which they are to serve the office of one whole year, and that no member shall be put up to stand steward without being three years

clear of stewardship, and the clerk to be chose, if agreed upon in the same manner, and the stewards and clerk to be allowed at the year's end one shilling each for paper, pens, ink, &c.

Manner of
paying, &c.

XXVI. THAT every member as he comes to pay his money shall bring a ticket of his number as he entered, and signed by the stewards how much it is to pass for, and withal, that all persons shall pay all forfeits within nine weeks after they become due, or else be excluded the Society without any money returned of what they have paid.

Of breaking
the Society.

XXVII. THIS Society shall never be broke, shared, or parted so long as three members shall hold altogether the same, and that every member shall subscribe his name to these articles, and all others made by the Society.

Persons de-
ceiving the
Society.

XXVIII. THAT if any person that entereth into this Society, be found to have any visible or hidden dis-temper before he entered into this Society, and did not acquaint the stewards with it when he was entered, he or they shall upon proof be discharged as soon as it is found out

out, without any money returned out of what he or they have paid.

XXIX. THAT no member or ^{Of printing} members may suffer by not being ^{the Articles,} acquainted thoroughly with all and every article belonging to this Society, it is therefore by the whole Society agreed, that the said several articles shall be printed, and that every member shall have one delivered to him by the clerk, for which he shall pay six-pence, if the said six-pences should not be sufficient, the remainder paid out of the public stock by the stewards. &c.

XXX. IN order to encourage and ^{Manner of} settle a good friendship and har- ^{balloting,} mony in this Society, and prevent disorder, animosity and ill blood; it is mutually agreed by the whole Society, that every thing in debate shall be ended in manner following by a majority, that is to say, the clerk shall give each member two tickets, on one wrote YEA, and the other No; then the clerk shall go to each member and receive one of the tickets from each member in his hat, and shall then return the tickets on the table before the Society; and the person or persons in question shall

shall be absent until the clerk or stewards have divided the tickets, and the person or persons shall be told by the stewards whether the matter is decided, for or against them; and then the clerk shall go and gather the remaining tickets from the members in the aforesaid manner, and every thing that shall happen between the monthly meetings relating to the Society, shall be entirely in and under the management of the stewards and clerk for the time being; and every thing belonging to the said Society to be kept in the said Club box; and at any time, any article or articles, or any part of any, may seem to want explaining, amendment, or be detrimental to the Society, it is hereby agreed by all the members to have notice given him at such a meeting, that a majority may have power to destroy any article or articles, or any part of any, or make new ones, that the majority as aforesaid may think beneficial to this FRIENDLY SOCIETY, and to insert in the register book when articles broke or made, and the register book and receipts, &c. to be kept in the said Club-box.

A majority
may alter
the Articles.

XXXI. and Lastly, It is mutually ^{Allowance} agreed by this Society, that at the ^{for the burial} death of any member's wife, the ^{of members} said member be allowed forty shil- ^{wives.} lings out of the box for the burial of his wife, to be paid the first meeting night after the death of the same, provided he is become free of the Society; and further that every member pay six-pence to the box at every such time.

God Save the King and Queen.



